

Message Text

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RUBJ: NIGERIAN COUP: SWEARING IN OF NEW SUPREME

MILITARY COUNCIL - RECOGNITION NEW FMG

REF : LAGOS 7366; 7367

SUMMARY: BRIGADIER MURTALA MUHAMMED INAUGURATES NEW SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC)HSND OUTLINES FUNCTIONS NEW GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM UNDER HIS REGIME. SUGGESTS PANELS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CREATION NEW STATES AND RELATION FEDERAL CAPITAL MUST BE NAMED WITHOUT DELAY. WITH TODAY'S APPOINTMENT NEW FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEPTTEL), RECOMMEND RESUMPTION NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIGADIER MURTALA MUHAMMED INAUGURATED HIS NEWLY RECONSTITUTED SMC AFTERNOON AUGUST 5. IN SHORT TALK AFTER GIVING OATHS OF OFFICE NEW MEMBERS, MUHAMMED REITERAED HIS VIEW THAT SMC WOULD GOVERN COUNTRY, PROVIDING GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND THAT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATES (NCS) (LAGOS 7254) AND FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) WOULD BE ADVISORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES. THE NCS, HE SAID, WILL PROVIDE FORUM FOR STATE

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REPRESENTATION IN THE QTE DISCUSSION OF MATTERS AFFECTING

THEIR INTERESTS UNQTE, AND THE FEC AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILS (SEC) WHEN SET UP WOULD QTE CONDUCT AND DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS END QTE.

2. APPEARS THAT IF MUHAMMED HAS HIS WAY, NCS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS WILL BECOME PRARILY ADVISORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES IN CONDUCT OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS. CERTAINLY THIS REFLECTED INPEECHES SOME NEW STATE GOVERNORS MAKING ON ASSUMING OFFICE. NEW WESTERN STATE GOVERNOR ADUWO, FOR EXAMPLE, IN PRESS INTERVIEW SAID THE COUNCIL OF STATES WOULD EXAMINE "POLITICAL PROBLEMS FROM VARIOUS STATES AND REFER THEM TO THE SMC WHICH HAS THE FINAL SAY." IT IS NOT RPT NOT YET CLEAR HOW MUCH LOCAL AUTONOMY STATE GOVERNORS WILL HAVE BUT THEY MAY BE GIVEN SOME LATITUDE, ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND FACT THAT IT IS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHICH DISPENSES OIL REVENUES AND FINANCES STATE DEVELOPMENT PLANS. FACT RELATIONSHIP NOT RPT NOT COMPLETELY SETTLED BORNE OUT IN SPEECH WHEN MUHAMMED SAID HE HAD GIVEN BROAD OUTLINES BUT THAT SMC WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT IN DETAIL ITS "FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS" TO OTHER TWO BODIES. SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SMC WILL HAVE POWER ACCEPT OR REJECT GOVERNORS ADVICE OR PROPOSALS, SINCE GOVERNORS NO LONGER SIT ON SMC IN POSITION REJECT HEAD OF STATES WISHES AS WAS CASE UNDER GOWON.

3. REFERRING TO PANELS HE PROMISED SET UP STUDY QUESTIONS CREATION NEW STATES AND RELOCATION FEDERAL CAPIAL (LAGOS 5274), MUHAMMED SAID THEY MUST BE APPOINTED WITHOUT DELAY. NEW LEADER SAID HE WANTED CRITERION FOR CREATION NEW STATES CAREFULLY STUDIED BEFORE EMBARKING ON SUCH COURSE OF ACTION AND HE WANTED INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD STUDY LOCATION FEDERAL CAPITAL TO MAKE "USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS." (COMMENT: ONE COULD, IF ONE WANTED, READ INTO THESE REMARKS TRACE OF OPPORISITION TO CREATION MORE STATES AND ENCOURAGEMENT RELOCATION FEDERAL CAPITAL.)

4. RADIO NIGERIA AT 1400 LOCAL SAID NEW TWENTY-FIVE MEMBER FEDERA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD BEEN NAMED -- NEWSCAST GAVE FOUR NAMES INCLUDING, WE BELIEVE, COLONEL JOSEPH GARBA AS NEW COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. (LAGOS 7207). WE IN PROCESS NOW OF OBTAINING COMPLETE LIST AND WILL FORWAHD ASAP. APPARENTLY SEC'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE MAINLY COMPOSED OF CIVILIANS ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY FORMER HOLDERS OF THE JOBS. ADUWO IN INTERVIEW CITED ABOVE SAID WITH NUMBER OF HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES BEING GIVEN JOBS AT FEDERAL LEVEL THERE WOULDN'T BE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO FILL SLOTS AVAILABLE IN TWELVE STATES. SEVERAL OF THE NEW GOVERNORS HAVE SACKED FORMER COMMISSIONERS AND KADUNA REPORTS NEW NORTH CENTRAL GOVERNOR IS SEEKING MOST CAPABLE INDIVIDUALS FILL POSTS.

5. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, LIBYA, PAKISTAN AND UV REPORTED
BY PRESS TO HAVE MADE STATEMENTS RECOGNITION NEW REGIME.
TODAY, "DAILY TIMES" CITES TASS STORY TO ASSERT USSR HAS
VOICED SUPPORT FOR NEW REGIME.

COMMENT: AS MUHAMMED REGIME IS IN EFFECTIVE AND UNCHALLENGED
CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY, WE TRUST DEPT'S REVIEW OF
SITUATION WILL RESULT IN EARLY AUTHORIZATION OF EMBASSY TO
RESUME FULL SCALE CONTACTS
AND RELATIONS (STATE 173433). IN
VIEW OF UK AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, WE SUGGEST UTILITY OF DEPT'S
SPOKESMAN, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, AFFIRMING THAT FULL DIPLOMATIC
CONTACTS AND RELATIONS EXIST WITH NEW FMG.
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